

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 25, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 10, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 26, 2007

SENATE BILL

No. 549

**Introduced by Senator Corbett
(Coauthor: Senator Kuehl)**

February 22, 2007

An act to add Section 230.5 to the Labor Code, relating to employee rights.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 549, as amended, Corbett. Employee's right to bereavement leave.

Existing law provides employees with the right to take time off work without discharge or discrimination for a number of reasons.

This bill would add the right to inquire about, request, and take time off for bereavement leave. *For state employees, if this leave conflicts with a memorandum of understanding, the terms of the memorandum of understanding would be controlling.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 230.5 is added to the Labor Code, to
2 read:
3 230.5. (a) An employer shall not discharge, discipline, or in
4 any manner discriminate against an employee for inquiring about,
5 requesting, or taking up to four days of bereavement leave off upon

1 the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandparent,
2 grandchild, or domestic partner.

3 (b) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
4 following meanings:

5 (1) “Child” has the same meaning as defined in paragraph (1)
6 of subdivision (b) of Section 233.

7 (2) “Employee” means a person employed by the employer for
8 at least 60 days prior to the commencement of the leave.

9 (3) “Parent” has the same meaning as defined in paragraph (3)
10 of subdivision (b) of Section 233.

11 (4) “Domestic partner” has the same meaning as defined in
12 Section 297 of the Family Code, who is registered pursuant to Part
13 2 (commencing with Section 298) of Division 2.5 of the Family
14 Code.

15 (5) “Sibling” has the same meaning as defined in subdivision
16 (c) of Section 362.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

17 (c) The days of bereavement leave need not be consecutive.

18 (d) The bereavement leave is to be unpaid, except that an
19 employee may use vacation, personal leave, or compensatory time
20 off that is otherwise available to the employee.

21 (e) The employee, if requested by the employer, shall, within
22 30 days of the leave, provide documentation of the death of the
23 spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, or domestic
24 partner. “Documentation” includes a death certificate, a published
25 obituary, or written verification of death, burial, or memorial
26 services from a mortuary, funeral home, burial society,
27 crematorium, religious institution, or government agency.

28 (f) An employee who is discharged, disciplined, or otherwise
29 discriminated against in terms or conditions of employment by his
30 or her employer because the employee has inquired about,
31 requested, or taken bereavement leave pursuant to this section is
32 entitled to reinstatement and to recover actual damages.

33 (g) An employee who believes he or she has been discharged,
34 disciplined, or in any way discriminated against in violation of
35 this section may take either of the following actions:

36 (1) The employee may file a complaint with the Division of
37 Labor Standards Enforcement in accordance with Section 98.7 of
38 the Labor Code.

39 (2) The employee may bring a civil action for the remedies
40 provided in subdivision (f) in a court of competent jurisdiction. If

1 the employee prevails, the court may award the employee
2 reasonable attorney's fees.

3 (h) The rights and remedies of this section are cumulative,
4 nonexclusive, and in addition to any other rights and remedies
5 afforded by contract or other provisions of law.

6 (i) *In any case where the provisions of this section are in conflict*
7 *with the provisions of a memorandum of understanding agreed to*
8 *pursuant to Section 3417.5 of the Government Code, the*
9 *memorandum of understanding shall be controlling without further*
10 *legislative action, except that if the provisions of the memorandum*
11 *of understanding require the expenditure of funds, those provisions*
12 *shall not become effective unless approved by the Legislature in*
13 *the annual Budget Act.*

14 (j) *The Director of the Department of Personnel Administration*
15 *may establish bereavement leave requirements for civil service*
16 *employees of the state who are not state employees under*
17 *subdivision (c) of Section 3513 of the Government Code, and for*
18 *executive branch officers and employees who are not members of*
19 *the state civil service under Part 2 (commencing with Section*
20 *18500) of Division 5 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*